



Flood Safety Information

What to do before the flood

What You Can Do Before A Flood

- Know the terms used to describe flooding:
 - Flood Watch—Flooding is possible. Stay tuned to NOAA radio, local radio or television for additional information.
 - Flash Flood—Flash flooding is possible. Move to higher ground. A flash flood could occur without any warning. Listen to NOAA radio, local commercial radio or television immediately.
 - Flash Flood Warning—A flash flood is occurring. Seek higher ground on foot immediately.
 - Urban and Small Stream Advisory—Flooding of small streams, street and low lying areas is occurring.
 - Beware of flood hazards, especially if you live in low lying areas, near water. Even small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts and dry stream beds or low lying ground that appears harmless in dry weather can flood.
 - Contact the Madison Planning, Engineering and Building Department to (256) 772-5600 to find out whether your property is in a flood zone area. Learn the elevation level of your property.
 - Talk to your family about flooding. Plan a place to meet your family in case you are separated from one another in a disaster and cannot return home.
 - Plan how you would care for family members who may live elsewhere but might need your help in a flood. Be prepared to assist neighbors, especially the elderly or disabled.
 - Assemble a disaster supplies kit. Include a battery-operated radio, flashlight, and extra batteries, first aid supplies, sleeping supplies, and clothing. Keep a stock of food and drinking water.
 - Know how to shut off electricity, gas and water at switches and valves. Know where gas pilots are located and how the heating system works.
 - Consider purchasing flood insurance. Flood losses are not covered under home owners insurance policies.
 - Consider flood proofing your home. Information is available through this department
 - Make a record of your personal property. Take photographs or videotape of your belongings and store these records in a safe place.
 - Keep insurance policies, deeds, property records and other important papers in a safe place away from your home.
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- Be aware of flash floods. If there is any possibility of a flash flood occurring, move immediately to higher grounds. Do not wait for instructions to move.
 - Listen to radio or television station for instructions on evacuation and shelter locations
 - Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood suddenly.
 - If local authorities issue a flood watch, prepare to evacuate
 - Stay away from flood waters; they could be contaminated.
 - Never try to walk, swim, or drive through swift water. If you come upon flood waters stop and turn around, and go another way. If you must walk in a flooded area, walk where water is not moving. Even Six inches of fast moving water can knock you off your feet and two feet can float your car.
 - Do not drive into flooded areas. If flood waters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and your vehicle can be swept away as flood waters rise.

What to Do After the Flood

- Stay away from flood waters. The water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage. The water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Stay away from moving water.
- Be aware of areas where flood waters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to Huntsville Utilities (256) 535-4448 or (256) 535-1200 (use in case of emergency situations only)
- Stay away from disaster areas unless authorities approve entrance.
- Continue to listen to a battery-powered radio for information about where to get assistance for housing, clothing, and food. Outreach programs are often available to help the stress of the situation.
- Numerous health issues will arise following a flood. Listen for special announcements from the Alabama Department of Health relative to proper precautions. Wash your hands with soap and clean water if you come in contact with flood waters. Throw away food that has come in contact with flood waters. Listen for news reports to learn whether tap water is safe to drink.
- Contact your insurance agent.

Emergency Contact Phone Numbers

Madison Water and Waste Water

Authority

Madison Water & Wastewater
285 Palmer Road
Madison, AL 35758
(256) 772-0253

Huntsville Utilities

Main Office - 112 Spragins Street
or
PO Box 2048
Huntsville, AL 35804
Phone (256) 535-1200
Fax (256) 535-1437

North Alabama Gas

North Alabama Gas District - Madison
Location
108 Church Street
or
PO Box 40
Madison, AL 35758
Phone (256) 772-0227

Athens Utilities

508 South Jefferson Street
or
P. O. Box 1089
Athens, AL 35612
(256) 233-8750

Cable Service

Knology, Inc.
Main Office
2401 10th Street SW
Huntsville, AL 35805
Phone: (256) 533-5353

Garbage and Trash Collection

(Madison County) - (256) 532-3718

Metal, and Trash Collection

City of Madison - Public Works
Department
400 Celtic Drive - (256) 772-8490

Disasters Essential Packages

These are things you will need most in an emergency, especially if you have to evacuate. They should be packed together in a moderate-sized sports bag. Each family member should have his/her own bag.

Sturdy-soled shoes and socks	Deodorant/antiperspirant
Complete change of clothing	Bar of soap
Leather gloves	Razor, shaving cream
Rain gear or poncho	Brush, comb
Warm hat and gloves or mittens	Toothbrush, toothpaste
Non perishable food	Wash cloth
Water (at least 1 quart)	Hand towel
Mess kit	Lotion
Prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses and reading glasses	Lip balm
Supply of routinely used prescription and non-prescription medications	Feminine hygiene
Small first aid kit	Book, small games
Flashlight with extra batteries and spare bulb	Family Communication Plan/out-of-area contact information
Whistle	Emergency medical information
Battery-operated radio with extra batteries	Extra set of house and car keys
Matches in a waterproof container	Emergency cash, duplicate ATM card, credit card with available credit

Essential Documentation

Store in a water proof container in a location that is easily accessible in case of an emergency

Cash, traveler's checks, coins and/or credit cards	Credit card and bank account numbers
Extra set of house and car keys	Inventory of household goods
Map of the area and phone numbers of places you could go	Medical records for special-needs people
Emergency contact list and phone numbers	

